will be agreed to be referred to the same select Committee. I commend the motion for acceptance by the House.

Mr. M. K. Verghese *(Cranganur):* I second it.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, Government wish to adopt the same policy with regard to this Bill also as was adopted in the case of the previous Bills. With certain reservations that is the provision in this amending Bill to confer fixity of occupancy rights upon varam and pankupattam tenants is opposed by Government. Government is also against giving unfettered right of purchase to the Verumpattamdars while Government is prepared to extend the right of pre-eumption; so that that means if the landlord is going to sell his land the first option to purchase it should be given to the tenant. With regard to the total deletion of clauses 2 and 3 of section 5 regard being had to the commutation of pattam in kind of coconut that is on the basis of the average. Government are keeping an open mind upon that question. Then the position with regard to the Municipal lands also has to be referred to the Select Committee. Government is not committing itself to any position at this stage. I wish to state these so that an argument may not be raised afterwards that because Government are party to refer to a Select Committee the principles contained in the Bill have been accepted by Government. It is only for a final adjustment of the business and for the consideration of all the questions that have been dealt with in this Bill that this position has been taken up by Government. I may also state that the Government have no objection to consider with these reservations the principles contained in these bills.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is the Cochin Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I move, Sir, that this Bill also be referred to the Select Committee to which the former Bills were referred.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Mr. President: Mr. L. M. Pylee is not here to-day, to move the introduction of his Bill. We will take it up to-morrow.

(v) The Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I move, Sir, that the Cochin Free Compulsory Education Bill be read in Council and in making that motion I have the duty to briefly explain the purpose of the Bill, though in the light of the position taken up by the Government even prior to the date of the inaugaration of the popular ministry much of explanation is not necessary. From the deliberations of the post-war re-construction committee on matters educational of which I happen to be a member I have been able to see, Sir, that the Government wants to introduce compulsion in the field of Primary Education. But the original idea of the Government was to have the whole of Cochin brought under compulsion within a very long period of 30 years. But the Sub-committee has brought down the length of the period to 1/3. The minutes of the Sub-committee will show that compulsion is to be had in 10 years. What was pressed for by me was 5 years. What was got was 10 years. I much say that I was not satisfied with the period of 10 years adopted by the Sub-committee, This period of 10 years will naturally be accepted by the Government because the Government was one of the mian parties to this conclusion. It is not however a subject which should wait or can wait for 10 years. For even 5 years. But unlike some other motion that was more important or at least equally important as this one that was the subject matter of discussion here yesterday, though not in the form of a Bill but in the form of a resolution, I am not for having compulsion introduced throughout the State all atonce. Necessary time to work out the detail of introduction of compulsion must be given to any Government even the popular Government of the day. They must be given time and the House may be pleased to give them time. But at the same time let not the House be any party to putting it of even for 5 years. As was stated in connection with the other matter yesterday here the most backward area in literacy should be first selected. First things first must be the rule to be followed. By that I don't mean that these coastal areas and the urban areas where comparatively the percentage of literacy is much higher, can wait even for 5 years'

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I do not think any elaborate discussion of the necessity for the introduction of compulsory education is necessary. So I do not wish to waste the time of the House nor my lungs, on the necessity of introducing compulsion within the shortest time.

One thing I wish to lay emphasis on is that there is necessity for introducing it as early as possible because the position of envy that Cochin has been enjoying for the last so many decades, namely that Cochin is the most advanced literate area in the whole of India is said to have been snatched away from her. I do not know whether the figures that I read somewhere are correct or the statement it self is correct. I happened to read it somewhere of which I have referred in the objects and reasons accompanying the Bill. It has been stated, Sir, that our Sister State of Travancore with which we are very much in alliance on very many good things has taken a march over Cochin, the place of pride has been rested from us by the Sister State of Travancore. We wish to have the pride of place for ourselves for which the only method thus far known is to introduce compulsory free education. I therefore urge the Government to introduce complusion at the earliest.

This House has been pressing for compulsory education, Sir, even from the very first year of the inception of this House. But till about 1111 things did not materialise. The Bill that was introduced by the late Mr. K. T. Mathew was referred to a Seclect Committee. But for some reasons the Select Committee did not report. I took up the matter and pilotted the Bill successfully almost to the very end. But by a deliberate stunt adopted by the Government of the day—the stunt was to say that compulsion means an educational cess my attempts were frustrated at the third reading at which the Bill was thrown out. The Select Committee on that earlier Bill of mine had toured the whole of Cochin, gathering evidence and soliciting expert opinion. With such elaborate enquiries conducted the Committee had submitted a very valuable report. At the consideration stage various amendments were tabled some of which after elaborate discussion were carried and formed part of the Bill. The few Sections of the present Bill do take note of all the previous endeavours of this House in this behalf. In the light of the changed and correct attitude of the Government regarding the Bill I do not think it necessary to explain the few provisions of the Bill even briefly. Suffice it to say all that is absolutely necessary to work out a successful scheme of compulsion in the filed of Primary Education has been embodied in the draft Bill gaining from the experience gathered on the former occasion. Personally I am not, therefore for referring this Bill to a Select Committee. But since 10 years that have elapsed between now and the former attempt is a pretty long period it is the opinion of my honourable supporters that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee but with a strict direction to report on it sufficiently early for giving notice of consideration for the next meeting itself.

The difficulty in Cochin, Sir, had not been want of schools. Schools there are in plenty in Cochin both Sirkar and Private owned the latter more than the former. Almost every village or group of villages has got a school. But the difficulty was that students will not come in. It was in a few cases aversions due to various reasons, heredity this and that. But in most cases it was the other thing, namely want of facilities to attend schools—necessary raiment to cover the nakedness, absolutely minimum quantity of food at least and such other things and most of the so-called backward communities of our State who have necessarily to be raised up suffer from these latter difficulties. It is mostly in their case that compulsion has to be immediately resorted to. Mostly the children of the school going age from these unfortunate communities are wanted in their house to took after the little ones of the house when the parents go out for the day's labour. Even in their infancy these children are utilised to augment their parents megre income. In such cases especially there is necessity for compulsion. Those poor children have to be clothed, they have to be fed. And even in spite of these things done by the Government if there is a child or a few children in any area that are not attending the school, of course there are penalties provided in the Bill.

Then another and last thing I want to refer to is the necessity to do away with what is technically known as wastage in primary education—By wastage, do not be carried away that I am making a statement that money spent upon primary education is a wastage. There is a real wastage, a stupendous one. From the statistics of attendance of primary schools, from class I to class 4 and up to class 5 hereafter you would be pleased to find, Sir, a gradual drop in the numbers with each years course. When promotions and other new admissions are taken into consideration it will be seen that by the time it comes to the next class there is a drop in attendance and not even 25 per cent of the students that go to the first class come to the 4th

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class. It is that drop before the completion of even the 4th class that is the most objectionable and stupendous wastage in education. That is perhaps the one reason why compulsion must be resorted to. A child entering school at 5 or six must be forced to remain at school till he finishes his five years education under the new scheme and before that he or she should not be allowed to get out of the school. This however is only a beginning. As I had occasion to remark at the post-war Sub-committee on education, primary education as obtaining to-day inclusive of the newly started 5th class under the revised code is absolutely insufficient. Primary education, if it is to be worth the name, it must go up to the 7th class. I have mentioned it in my desenting minute in the Sub-committee. But let us begin gradually. Let us now start compulsion up to the 5th class. I am sure that there will be demand from the enlightened public who will be prepared to pay even a cess also that the minimum education that should be given to the future citizens of enlightened Cochin is up to the 7th Class. There will also come the time when the demand will be to have compulsion for the whole course of Secondary Education *i.e.*, up to Form VI if not to the B. A. degree itself. But let us make the beginning and that by having compulsion in the field of primary education, *i.e.*, inclusive of the 5th class. Therefore let us make a beginning to-day, to-day not meaning that the whole of Cochin should be under compulsion to-morrow, morning, but absolutely necessary minimum time being taken for spreading the scheme throughout the State. I commend this motion to this House.

The House re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble Diwan President in the Chair.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ബില്ലിനെ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സാർവ്വത്രികമാക്കാൻ നിർബ്ബന്ധംകൂടാതെതന്നെ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു നമ്മളുടെ ഗവ ൺമെണ്ടു വിശ്വസിച്ചിരുന്ന ഒരു കാലമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ നിയമസഭയുടെ ആരംഭം മുതൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധമാക്കണമെന്ന മുറവിളി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളപ്പോഴൊക്കെ അതിനു തുടക്കം ത്തിച്ചുവയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് നമ്മളുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപുരോഗതി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ നിർബ്ബന്ധംകൂടാതെതന്നെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സാർവ്വത്രികമാക്കാമെന്നാണു്. ചില സമുദായങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു അതു പരമാർത്ഥമാകാമെങ്കിലും മറ്റു ചില സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു അടുത്തകാലത്തൊന്നും പരമാർത്ഥമാകാൻപോകുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. പരമ്പരയാ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കു് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ അതു നിർബ്ബന്ധംകൊണ്ടല്ലാതെ സാദ്ധ്യമാകയില്ല. തങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന ആഗ്രഹം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല ആ കുട്ടികൾക്കു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇല്ലാതെ പോകുന്നതു്. അതിനുള്ള കഴിവു ഇല്ലാത്തതാണു്. അതിനാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിയമംമൂലം നിർബ്ബന്ധിക്കതെന്നു വേണം. എന്നാൽ ദാരിദ്ര്യം എങ്ങിനെ ഇല്ലാതെയാക്കാമെന്ന ഒരു ചോദ്യം വരാം. തങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികളെ പഠിക്കാൻ സ്കൂളിലയക്കണമെന്നു നിർബ്ബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു അവർക്കു അതിനുവേണ്ട പരിതസ്ഥിതി ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ചുമതലകൂടി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. കുട്ടികൾക്കു് സ്കൂളിൽ പോകാൻ വേണ്ട ഉടുപ്പുകൾ വേണം, പുസ്തകം വേണം, അവർക്കു ആഹാരം കഴിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ചുറ്റുപാടുകൂടി അവർക്കു ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിയമംമൂലം നിർബ്ബന്ധമാക്കാൻ പോകുന്നതു്. നമ്മളുടെ നാട്ടിലെ വളരെയധികം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയുണ്ടു്. തൊഴിലുള്ളവർക്കു തന്നെങ്കിൽ ജീവിതത്തിനു മതിയാകാത്ത ഒരു കൂലി വ്യവസ്ഥയുമാണുള്ളതു്. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ചില സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമായ നിലയിലാണു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസനില എന്നു ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടു നോക്കിയാൽ അറിയാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു ഏറ്റവും മുന്നണിയിലാണെങ്കിലും അതു ചില സമുദായങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമേ പരമാർത്ഥമാകുന്നുള്ളു എന്നു പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളു. ബാക്കി വിഭാഗത്തിൽപെട്ട ചില സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ നിലയെടുത്തു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമായ ഒന്നാണെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു അവരെ ഉദ്ധരിക്കുമായ സംഭാവനകൾചെയ്തു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, വിദ്യാലയം അടുത്തു കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ കുട്ടികൾക്കുപോലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസ്സിൽ ചേർന്നു പഠിച്ചു ജയിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ രണ്ടാംക്ലാസ്സിൽ ഉടനെ പഠിക്കാൻ ദാരിദ്ര്യം നിമിത്തം സാധിക്കാതെ പഠിപ്പു നിർത്തേണ്ടിവരുന്നവരെ ധാരാളം കാണാം. അവരെ നാലാംക്ലാസ്സുവരെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ള പണമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം

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ല്ല, മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാക്ക അതിലും താഴെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളെ നോക്കാനായി മുതിന്ന കുട്ടികളെ സ്കൂളിൽ അയക്കാതെ വീട്ടിൽതന്നെ നിറുത്തേണ്ടിവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട നിർബ്ബന്ധം ചെലുത്താതെ കുട്ടികളെ അയക്കുകയില്ല. അതോടുകൂടി പണിസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ചെറിയ കുട്ടികളെ നോക്കുന്നതിനു ആവശ്യമായ creches-ം ഏർപ്പാടുകളും നടപ്പാക്കണം. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇന്നത്തെ നിലയിൽമാത്രം പുരോഗമിച്ചാൽ പോരാ എന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിർബ്ബന്ധം ചെലുത്തുകതന്നെ വേണം. അതോടുകൂടി കുട്ടികളെ സ്കൂളിലേയ്ക്കു അയയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ചുറ്റുപാടുകളും മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാക്ക ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കുകയും വേണം.

ഈ ബിൽ തീച്ചയായും ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു അംഗീകരിക്കുമെന്നതിൽ എനിക്ക സംശയമില്ല. ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഇത്തരം ഒരു ബിൽ ഇവിടെ വന്നു. അതു നടപ്പിൽവരാതെ പോയതാണ്. നിർബ്ബന്ധവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതുമൂലം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന അധികച്ചിലവു വഹിക്കുവാൻ പ്രത്യേക നികുതി ചുമത്താവുന്നതാണ്. നിർബ്ബന്ധവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി ഒരു നികുതി ചുമത്തിയാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ നിലക്ക ജനങ്ങൾക്ക വലിയ ആക്ഷേപമുണ്ടാകുകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രൈമറി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധമാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഈ ബില്ലിനെ ഞാൻ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

മിസ്സസ്സ് ടി. ഫ്രാൻസിസ്സ്: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ തത്വത്തോട് അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാക്കാത്തേടത്തോളം കാലം ആളുകളുടെയിടയിൽ എഴുത്തും വായനയും ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ലെന്ന് പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിയമം കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാക്കണം. എന്നാൽ മാത്രമേ അതു നിവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളു. പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഫീസ്സു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടായെന്നുവെച്ചാലുംകൂടി സ്കൂളുകളിൽ പോകുവാൻ സാധിക്കാത്ത കുട്ടികളുണ്ട്. അഥവാ ചില കുട്ടികൾ അവിടെ ചെന്ന് ഹാജരുകൊടുത്തു പഠിച്ചാലും അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗുണം കിട്ടുന്ന കുട്ടികൾ വളരെ ചുരുക്കമാണ്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം തള്ളമാരും മറ്റും വീടുകളിലെ പണിയെടുപ്പിച്ചും, താഴെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളെ നോക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞും, വേറെ ചില ജോലികൾക്ക് പറഞ്ഞയക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും മറ്റുമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ സർക്കാർതന്നെ ഒരു പോംവഴി കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച് ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കുട്ടികൾക്ക് പ്രാഥമിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെലുത്തേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. അതിനുവേണ്ടി മിസ്റ്റർ ഡീവറിനേയും മറ്റു അംഗങ്ങളേയും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഉടനെ ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യണം. അവർക്ക് ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണവും കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യണം. ഇതൊക്കെ സർക്കാർതന്നെ മുന്നിട്ടുനിന്ന് പ്രാഥമികമായിട്ടുള്ള ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ എന്തെല്ലാം ആണെന്നു അന്വേഷിച്ചു ദരിദ്രന്മാരുടെ കുട്ടികളെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടതായ നിർബ്ബന്ധം ചെലുത്തേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. വിശേഷാൽ സ്ത്രീകളുടെ ഇടയിലാണ് അധികം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇല്ലാതെ കാണുന്നതു. ഒരു വീട്ടിൽ നാലഞ്ചു വയസ്സു പ്രായമുള്ള കുട്ടികളെക്കൊണ്ടു അമ്മമാർ സാധാരണ പല വീട്ടുപണികളും എടുപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കാരണങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു കുട്ടികൾക്ക് സ്കൂളുകളിൽ പോകുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാക്ക് കുട്ടികളെ സ്കൂളുകളിൽ അയക്കേണ്ടയെന്നുള്ള വിചാരംകൊണ്ടല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ പ്രാഥമിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കൊച്ചിയിലാകമാനം നിർബ്ബന്ധമാക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* Mr. President, Government's attitude towards this question, I believe, is well known, but I shall reiterate them for the information of the members of this House who have not yet known it. Government believe that Elementary Education ought to be universal in the State and if for that purpose compulsion ought to be applied Government are prepared to apply compulsion also, and therefore Government are accepting the principle underlying in the Bill moved by the Hon'ble Member from Vadakkancheri. As regards Free Primary Education, it is well known that Malayalam Primary Education is free in the State and in order to make all sorts of Elementary Education free the rule that fee ought to be collected from English Primary Schools has been taken away. In fact the difference between Malayalam and English Primary Schools has been taken away so that Elementary Education to-day in this State is free. Government want it to be universal and in order to make it universal if compulsion is necessary Government accept the principle in this. But before I resume my seat I wish to inform the House the several steps already being taken by

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the Government to see that education is universal in the State. The policy of this Government in educational matters is well known and the result of that policy will be borne out by the facts and figures. Assuming that the age of the elementary school going children is between 6 and 11 the number of children belonging to that group to day is 1,87,063. Out of this the number of children who attend school is 1,16,295 and therefore the number of children who have to be provided for is only 70,768. I refer to these figures to show that there is absolutely no difficulty for the Government to accept any motion before the House that there ought to be universal primary education in the State. This figure is certainly creditable for any Government in the world and certainly creditable for any Government in India that 1,16,295 children of school going age out of a total of 18,7,063 should be in school is a certain credit. Now one of the provisions in this Bill is that when compulsion is applied over guardians to send their children to schools the children will have to be provided with books. They will have to be provided with food and as pointed out by the Hon'ble Member they will have to be provided with cloth also. Sir, the House may be aware that in the last budget an amount of 5 lakhs of rupees has been set apart for feeding the children, that is to say that even before this Bill is placed on the Statute Book this Government has already made a liberal provision for feeding the children of indigent parents during day time and that system is working well at present. Then again the children belonging to the depressed classes have all along been supplied with books and other educational requirements. They were given clothes also. That has been done for the uplift of the Depressed Classes. In one sense that has been done for the spread of education because the children of these communities were backward in education. They are not going to schools not only on account of poverty but because they have to do domestic duties when their parents go for work. That system has all along been in existence in the State. Then for certain other communities for example the Muslim Community, the Jews and other communities several concessions were being given to persuade them to take more and more to education. I refer to those things in order to show that this Government has always been anxious to see that Elementary education is universal in the State, Now, what is the problem that faces us to-day. That is also to be considered. It is in order to make education universal 3 or 4 things will have to be accomplished. Now, there is the question of money. But that is not the most important thing. I do not want at all to refer to it. Although from Government stand point that is a very important matter. But there are more difficult questions which have to be considered. But Government do not want to evade those questions. Sir, in order to educate the 70000 and odd children we may require atonce 2,000 teachers. Assuming that one teacher can teach 35 children. In order to educate 70,000 and odd children we may atonce require 2,000 teachers. In regard to the greatest difficulty which Government will have to face is to find so many teachers. Therefore if Government did not atonce make education universal it is due to paucity of trained hands. Even to-day Government are faced with a very difficult situation. Even to-day several applications are coming to the Director of Public Instruction to exempt this teacher and that teacher from the rule requiring that teachers must be trained, in order to occupy certain posts in the schools. That is a very great difficulty but Government have not evaded that question also. Training institutions have been started and an emergency training course has also been started in order to see that we have got qualified hands to tackle the question of illiteracy in our country. The scheme regarding education prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education of the Government of India popularly known as the Sergeant scheme lays down certain principles in order that education may be successfully imparted to the children. Every teacher must be a trained teacher. No educationel authority I think will gainsay the proposition that unless teachers are properly trained the money that was spent on education may to some extent to be a waste. Therefore while the Government is prepared to accept the principle underlying the bill and prepared to do everything possible to see that universal primary education becomes the accomplished fact in this country as pointed out by the Hon'ble mover of the Bill this is not a matter which can be done to-morrow. When the Bill becomes law suitable modifications will be made in the Bill in order to make it more workable and certainly Government will place this ideal of universal free primary education before them and in order to accomplish that they will use compulsion if necessary. Now what is your Bill? That is an optional Bill. This Bill does not say that compulsion should be used unnecessarily. If I am sending my children to school certainly no compulsion will be applied against me. Therefore, if there are certain guardians who will not send their children to school compulsion must be applied. That is all what I meant. That is to say what is the scope of this Bill. It is good that members do understand it. Gentlemen, this is only a permissive legislation. If in a

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certain area it is found necessary to apply the provisions of the Bill in order to persuade and compel if necessary guardians to send their children to school compulsion will be applied. I am not at all opposing the provisions of the Bill. The mover of the Bill and the Government are in complete agreement on the question before them. But instead of simply saying that I accept the principle of the Bill and sit down I thought it would be useful that we understand what are the difficulties facing us. The difficulties are not the difficulties created by the Government. We must have more schools, we must have more trained hands. It is not a very easy thing to get 2,000 teachers at once on the reopening of schools next year. Therefore even the Sergeant scheme has dealt with these difficulties for example one of the recommendations made by them is that in the teaching service pay and conditions must be such as to attract suitable men and women in sufficient numbers. All teachers must be trained hands. That is one of the recommendations. Let us look at the number, Sir, once again. At present there are in Government Service 1,500 Elementary teachers and to give it in round figures 1,500 Elementary teachers in Government Service and about 3,000 Elementary teachers in aided service together they constitute 6,500. We must have another 2,000 teachers so many in the Government schools and in the aided schools. We are now not having sufficient number of teachers. So altogether we must have about 7,000 Elementary teachers in order to see that every child of the school going age is given tuition in the Elementary schools. Now this problem of having 7,000 teachers between 2,000 and 3,000 teachers over and above the existing number is the real problem apart from the problem of money which I do not want to refer. Therefore Government once more reiterate this policy, that we want universal education. We have already made education free. We have taken several steps to see that education becomes universal even without compulsion. Now we are prepared to accept the principle underlying the Bill that in necessary cases of compulsion, compulsion will be necessary. It is due to either on account of ignorance or on account of poverty. Government have already recognised the necessity that children of indeigent parents must be given meals at noon time. 5 lakhs of rupees have been provided for it in the last years budget. The Government want that the Bill ought to go to a Select Committee so that suitable modifications may be made in order to change the operation of the Bill to see that things work properly at the Select Committee. The Hon'ble mover of the Bill pointed out that Government agreed that they will consider this Bill. It is necessary that there ought to be an expert member in this Council and accordingly the Government have nominated the Director of Public Instruction, their educational expert as a special member to consider the provisions of this Bill. I request the Hon'ble mover of the Bill to agree with me that the Bill may go to a Select Committee and the Director of Public Instruction who has already been a Member of this House may be included in the Select Committee so that we have a very good report and very good Bill on this matter which the Government will accept with liberty reserved with them to make suitable modifications by way of amendment. With these observations I resume my seat.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I heard the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Education say that the mover and Government are in complete agreement. I am glad of that; I am indeed glad, Sir, that the Government from an attitude of opposition entertained by them on the previous occasion, have under various circumstances, given up that attitude and have assured that the Bill after its consideration by a proper Select Committee, and appropriate amendments will be accepted by the Government. But I must confess, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister was exhibiting too much of unnecessary caution in his observations. The Hon'ble Minister was repeatedly pointing out that the Bill even as conceived by the mover was only a permissive one. He seems to have taken his stand upon clauses referring to that part of the Bill which says that Government may declare areas to be brought under compulsion, it certainly is not the intention of either the mover or of those who snpport him to have compulsion introduced all at once. But it does not mean indefinite putting off.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* Mr. President, what I meant was that compulsion will not be applied on everybody. If I conveyed any other idea you may please take this to be the correct statement. The provision of the Bill is, if a guardian is not sending his children to school, he will be given a warning, and even after the warning he does not send his chiid to school compulsion will be applied.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadaknancheri):* I am however glad that the Hon'ble Minister intervened and clasrified his position, though I think no clarification is necessary. I have rightly understood what the Hon'ble Minister have been saying. I believe and rightly too that there was an attempt though unconcious, or even conscious to take shelter if for any reason

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there is necessity to put off introduction of compulsion by a few days or months, by way of abundunt caution characteristic of the Hon'ble Minister. He will never commit himself, at any rate hereafter, unduly. That is why I submitted Sir, that the Hon'ble Minis'er quite characteristically, was trying to take shelter under the fact that the Bill itself is permissive. What else does compulsion mean? It is only Government taking power in their hands to do the right thing at the right time and with the proper will. It was said by way of explanation, as if nobody could understand that position that compulsion will not be applied upon the parent who regularly send their children to school. We want a debate noton such a level but on a higher level as becoming the debate upon a subject of universal importance especially when that debate is conducted in a House practically completely responsible though technically not. That being so I also feel it my duty to explain my position categorically. When I said in moving the Bill that it is not my intention that the bill s ould be put into operation at once. I meant that it should be put into operation as early as possible, not the usual as early as possible but the real as early as possible. Provision should be made for the absolute minimum of time for introducing compulsion when found necessary. If they be months I have no objection for the Government making allowance for that It must be applied in every part of the State where it is necessary at the earliest. If every child is attending schuol nobody would say that compulsion is necessary to be introduced. The Hon'ble Minister had been quoting statistics in his speech. I must inform him and the House that the statistics are 5 years or more old. Every child born in 1941 must have now reached the school going age. The object after all of compulsory primary education is to make good citizens out of the young excellent pliable material that the child is and utilising that material properly at the proper time as the child advances in years and rises into boyhood and later on to maturity. He must be able to realise the full benefit he has got by the benevolence of the Government making him into a citizen fit to governand fit to be governed. That is the idea underlying compulsory primary education. The child of to-day is the citizen of to-morrow and so he must be educated in such in such a way that, if necessity arises, he must be able to govern and use his head, use his brain, use his hands and do things promptly where promptitudc is necessary, slowly when slowness is wanted and wisely always, not depending upon others. It is not possible for everybody to be the leaders though that is seen to be the trend of to-day but everyman who is fit to govern must also be willing to be governed by those who are more fitted, for the time being, to govern. That is the object of education, nothing else. That being so, Sir, it is time that although the bill is of a permissive nature, of the description that I described earlier it must for all practical purposes be conceivd as the Hon'ble Minister always beinas with conception and in the matter of execution in this particular case even the natural period after conception should not be allowed. 10 months, normale but correctly 9 months 9 nays and 9 Nazhikas.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Minister for Food and Education*): There is a controverry about it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What is the subject under the sun on which there is no controverey and is our brilliant Minister in charge of Education going to take shelter under that? Do not take this lightheartedly. When a man like Hon'ble Minister is speaking on education it is becuse of its magnitude and importance.

Another observation of the Hon'ble Minister Sir, was on the noon-day feeding for which already there is a provision of 5 lakhs of rupees. What is the total you want; much more than double and it was stated by the Hon'ble Minister that the system was working well. Ask my friend the Honourable Mr. Paul who is in direct touch with School chlderen and the foding. I am sure he will give his candid opinion, which will not help the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. P. K. Paul *(Chalakkudy)*: It is working well.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassau *(Vatakkancheri)*: Very good. Does not the House understand why my Honjble friend has said like that? The House is informed that the Hon'ble Member has been pleased with its working. I shall not question the corrections of the Statement and it may will be so in a small area beyond which his eyes deliberately or otherwise have not travelled. As against that statement of my Hon'able friend I am here in the capacity of a Manager of a primary school and a member of the central committee on noon-feeding the House that there are very many areas and good many schools where the system has not even been introduced and even where it is introducedit is working hopelessly badly, for a variety of reasons, the contarctor system andmany other things.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : In your school?

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : My school Sir, is just like myself (Laughter) I again request. my Hon'ble friends to be serious on this subject. I was on the question of very well conducted noon-feeding referred to by the Hon'ble Minister. Take it from me, Sir, because you want to bo things properly or at least we want you to do things properly that it is not so. Take it from me, Sir, that the system has very much to be improved; not at a later date but immediately if possible, overnight. If there is a will there is a way.

Then the difficulty of teachers with referance to the Sergeantes report and all that. It is very excellent, Sir, to have every primary school manned by trained teachers, and according to my notions and study of the subject, if possible, not to be manned by man but by woman. They are the best material to taclke children, Now, Sir, it is the opinion of Educational experts that the proper hand to deal with the excellent material that goes to school is the woman, with a woman's instinct, which know the wants of children. Even Spinsters, they says know the wants of children. Better still if they are married. Women are the welcome sort in primary schools. I must say on the question of difficulty pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister to have 2,000 teahers for a Government which has this morning admitted that its establishment charges comes up to more than 1/3 of the revenue of the State in these days of excellent windfalls. Such a Government must necessarily find the funds necessary to train this 2,000 teachers under the new course that is started with a minimum periodof one year, You have to train 1,000 teachers every year. The capacity of the present school at Anapara is only to accommodate only 200 or 300 it is said. You will have to open a training school each at 4 different centres in the State and spend money for the same because it is an excelllent investment, because the capital wealth of a State does not contain in the investment of the sort that we have now but in the brains, in the minds and in the physique of the child, the future citizen. So for that purpose, noble purpose; necessary purpose, unavoidable purpose you have to spend money thereby causing you, forcing you, not to spend money in the directions which are objectionable a sample of the subject matter of a question this morning.

Further, Sir, although Educational experts are of opinion that trained teacher is the man or the woman that is wanted in schools, look round and you will find excellent teachers who are born teachers. If you will use your eyes and other agencies of inquiry you will find, Sir, that there are in Cochin very many born teachers. So, Sir, when the Director of Public Instruction reports to the Hon'ble Minister to get A or B, exempted from training, do it lavishly with the same intelligence that was employed in exempting students who have not gone up to the whole of 6th Form course to appear privately and judge and test upon the merits on the examination. You have set the example, only carry it one step further and try an untrained teacher and you will find that the results produced are good indeed. Several Educational experts say that a trained teacher is better. But they have never condemned untrained teachers. Next on the percentage literacy in the State. We are as matter of fact living in a fools paradise. It is said that our percentage of literacy is very high. Go to the area where from our oldest member of this House hales. Ask him and inquire of him what is the percentage of literacy in Chittur Taluk.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* ; 8 per cent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* You are quoting the figures of Coimbatore but not better Chittur. There it is 24 percent nothing more nothing less.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* Is this a reply for anything I said I must plead not guilty.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* A great advocate Minister indeed. A man can plead guilty when he is called upon to plead and not before and nobody called upon my Hon'ble friend to plead. Have you forgotten your former distinguished position. (*Laughter*) I do not find the necessity or relevancy for the Hon'ble Minister saying all these things. In the attempt made by my Hon'ble friend I smelt something not very complimentary when he said, Sir, that it is a permisive Bill only and various arguments that followed.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* No argument. Only information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : But my friend forgets that the information supplied must be necessarily informative. (*Laughter*)

My Hon'ble friend the Minister, may please plead guilty or even proclaim his innocense when he is called upon by anybody who is empowered to do that, not when I am on my legs. I was submitting, Sir, that the difficulty of the teachers is no difficulty at all and that the high percentage we generally refer to is not fully correct. Therefore I am submitting, Sir, though

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apparently, not only apparently, as worded in a certain section the Bill is of a permissive nature, take it in the spirit in which a Government as constituted to-day should work such a Bill, take the minimum time, bring the whole of Cochin.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member will please conclude his speech.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): If it is the wish of the Chair I should stop I shall just now close and only say that I have replied to the very many unnecessary statements made by the Hon'ble Minister and request him to be pleased to put the Bill into force as soon as possible. I move that the Bill be read in Council.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is the Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I move, Sir, that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Mr. L. M. Pylee.
2. ,, P. A. Muhamad Ashrof.
3. ,, P. K. Dewer.
4. ,, M. K. Raja
5. Mrs. K. M. R. Menon.
6. Mr. Parmbi Lonappen
7. ,, S. P. Luiz.
8. ,, The Director of Public Instruction

and myself, in all 9 members.

Mr. President: Do you want the Advocate-General?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Yes. Sir, what about the Hon'ble Minister for Education who was saying he does not want to be on the Committee?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education)*: I am just reminded that the member in charge of the subject ought to be a member. I request, Sir, that Mr. K. Kochukuttan also may be a member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I have absolutely no objection, Sir.

Mr. President: Yes.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Mukundapuram-Ezhuvas)*: I second it.

Mr. President: The question is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of.—

1. The Hon'ble Minister for Food and Education.
2. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
3. Mr. L. M. Pylee.
4. Mr. P. A. Muhamad Ashrof.
5. Mr. P. K. Dewer.
6. Mr. M. K. Raja.
7. Mrs. K. M. R. Menon.
8. Mr. K. Kochukuttan.
9. Mr. Parambi Lonappen.
10. Mr. S. P. Luiz.
11. The Advocate-General and
12. The Director of Public Instruction.

Motion put and carried

Mr. President: The Minister in charge of Education will be the Chairman of the Committee and the Select Committee will report within 2 months.

We passed over this morning the Deputy President's Bill in his absence. I do not know whether he would like to move for the introduction of his Bill now.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam)*: No, Sir. It may be deferred to to-morrow.

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